

Council Meeting Highlights March 7, 2016

Please note Council meeting highlights are not a substitute for the City's comprehensive Council meeting minutes, found on the City website at: www.campbellriver.ca. Council meeting agendas, minutes and webcasts are available from the link on the homepage.

Youth Action Committee presents ideas for downtown revitalization

Committee members Nigel Neufeld, Meara Spiers and Benjamin Lowe presented a report to Council on initiatives that youth in the community recommend for downtown revitalization. Downtown revitalization was the most popular choice for this year's Youth Action Committee (YAC) work plan. The report was based on 552 survey responses, representing the perspectives of 21.5 per cent of local students in grades 7 to 12.

Results indicated that most youth visit downtown once or twice a week, with most visits centered around food or coffee. Key suggested improvements:

Small-scale improvements included: pop up cafes and food trucks; public art (e.g. painted crosswalks, murals and public pianos) and live streets (closing the road in front of the Tidemark once a week in the summer for markets and music).

Medium-scale improvements included: lighting of street trees and other features of the downtown at night; more gathering places (tables, umbrellas, chairs) and decorative/themed crosswalk connections between the Tidemark Theatre and Spirit Square.

Large-scale improvements included: redesign alleyways to have more life (e.g. art, store entrances, seating etc.); redesign entrances into downtown to create a sense of arrival and more green space in the Tyee Plaza.

If such improvements were made, 75 per cent of the survey respondents said they would visit the downtown more frequently.

The committee's recommendations will be incorporated into downtown planning initiatives.

Redevelopment for Strathcona Toyota at 2785 Island Highway

Council approved an application to revise the site plan and construct an addition to the existing auto dealership at northeast corner of Island Highway and Coulter Road. The building area will be increased from 1560 m² (14,640 ft²) to 1702.5m² (18,325.6ft²), with the addition wrapping around the west side of the building. Current and future uses of the building will be offices, a showroom and vehicle servicing/maintenance area, vehicle servicing bays and offices for the used car component of the business. The project was approved subject to minor amendments to provide landscaping consistent with improvements at other car dealerships along the highway and along Coulter Road.

New location for Dairy Queen on Dogwood Street will not require underground utilities

Council opted to waive a requirement under the City's *Subdivision Development Servicing Bylaw* that existing overhead wires are relocated underground on sites with frontages of 45 metres or more to relieve the owner of the cost associated with relocating the overhead wires underground. The City will be undertaking an overall strategy for services and development in the downtown area over the next year, and undergrounding of power lines will likely be considered as a way to create a more attractive urban environment.

Variance approved for 2135 Nikola Place

Council approved a 166.3m² ancillary building to be used in connection with the agricultural operation on the property. The variances allow construction to exceed maximum permitted height and combined floor area of the ancillary buildings. The parcel is located in the “Estate” area as identified within the Official Community Plan, which promotes small scale agricultural operations. The location of the ancillary building, the large parcel size and building configuration indicate that the proposal will have minimal impact on the surrounding neighbourhood.

Storm Water Management Parcel Tax to be renewed

Council gave first and second reading to a draft bylaw amendment to renew the Storm Water Management Parcel Tax Bylaw for 10 years in support of the recently approved 10-year capital plan. The tax would apply to all land parcels in the City at a rate of \$12 per parcel and raise approximately \$165,000 annually to fund improvements to the City’s network of storm drainage infrastructure.

Licence fees waived for guide and service dogs

Council adopted a bylaw amendment that would waive dog licence fees for guide and service dogs, RCMP dogs and Search and Rescue dogs. The bylaw would also be amended to allow such dogs access to otherwise restricted public or park areas, as long as the dog is under effective control of a competent person and is performing its function as a guide and service dog, RCMP dog or search and rescue dog. This bylaw received first and second readings on Feb. 9 and third reading on Feb. 22, 2016.

Expanded authority for ticketing for clean air and fire safety

Council adopted a bylaw amendment that would provide fire department captains with ticketing capability for violations to the Clean Air, Fire Services and Fireworks Regulation Bylaws. Previously, the fire chief, deputy fire chief, assistant fire chief and fire Inspectors were the only officials with the authority to issue tickets for these violations. This bylaw received first and second readings on Feb. 9 and third reading on Feb. 22, 2016.

Fixed-price contract approved for fire dispatch

The City has provided fire dispatch services to North Island 911 Corporation for the past 20 years. A fixed fee contract was approved for 2016 with the intention to develop a five-year fixed fee contract once negotiations with the International Association of Fire Fighters are complete to provide long-term budgeting stability.

City to pursue continued funding level for graffiti removal agreement from BC Hydro

Two years ago the City implemented new regulations requiring property owners to remove graffiti from their buildings and structures within five working days or enter into an agreement with the City to remove the graffiti in exchange for a fee. BC Hydro chose to enter into an agreement in which it provides the City with an annual payment of \$3,000 for graffiti removal. Recently, BC Hydro advised the City that it would be cutting its payment in half. In response to BC Hydro’s decision, Council has requested that staff meet with representatives of the crown corporation to request that it reconsider its decision to reduce funding for the removal of graffiti from its utility boxes and infrastructure.

Steering committee for Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP) in the works

Council confirmed that the CEEP multi-stakeholder steering committee will be chaired by Councillor Marlene Wright, who holds the environment portfolio, with Councillor Michele Babchuk as an alternate.

The City is revising its 2011 Community Energy and Emissions Plan with a focus on implementation. The plan is a tool to manage energy and emissions in relation to land use,

transportation, buildings, energy supply and waste. The plan helps the City work toward community greenhouse gas reduction target in Campbell River's Official Community Plan, as required by the Province. The plan also helps build a more resilient, prosperous and healthy community, and manage the risks associated with fluctuating energy prices. Campbell River is one of three communities in the country selected by Quest Canada and the Getting to Implementation Initiative.

Highway 19A improvements priority for 2016 New Building Canada funding application

The City, through Council's endorsement, will resubmit an application for funding to the New Building Canada Fund for small communities (population less than 100,000) to reconstruct the portion of Highway 19A from just south of Rockland to the Big Rock boat ramp. This project would include all new underground services (water, sewer and storm lines), surface improvements that include road widening (similar to that south through Willow Point) and rebuilding the sea walk. The project is estimated to cost just over \$10 million. If the grant funding is approved, design work would be done in 2017 and construction in 2018. Council also intends to develop an advocacy strategy for securing grant funding for the Highway 19A project.

City Hall office space adjustments approved

Council approve the re-allocation of existing Capital Funding to allow for City Hall office space adjustments to create consolidated space for filing, combined space for bylaw officers and administrative assistant, office space for economic development and an office for councillors.

RCMP Auxiliary Constable Program

Council asked for a staff report on proposed changes to the RCMP auxiliary constable program and how the changes will affect community policing in Campbell River.

Social Funding criteria to be considered by Council

Council directed staff to draft eligibility criteria and application requirements to access the City's social funding for consideration at the April 22 Committee of the Whole meeting. The report will also recommend options on how social funding applications would be evaluated; including the option of establishing a social grant committee.